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# Missing or Damaged Street Signs

If you should see a damaged sign, malfunctioning signal, or other problem with traffic, please contact Traffic Engineering Maintenance.

**To Report a missing or damaged sign,  
Call 316-268-4501**



**Damaged or Missing Signs can be dangerous!**

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## Stop Sign Trivia

- When not required to stop by cross traffic, only 5–20 percent of drivers will come to a complete stop, 40–60 percent will come to a rolling stop below 5 mph, and 20–40 percent will pass through at higher than 5 mph.
- National studies have shown that accident rates actually increase where stop signs have been installed without meeting warrants or where circumstances did not justify the installation. Reasons for this include drivers ignoring what they perceive to be an unnecessary stop sign, too many stop signs along a roadway, or pedestrians believing that vehicles will stop at a stop sign.
- While the human brain can be aware of multiple things, it can only do one thing at a time. This is difficult for many people to accept, but what is actually occurring is a skilled form of time-sharing. This works so long as the combined demands stay within the resource capabilities of the operator. Placing too many signs on the roadway can result in driver overload.



## Traffic Engineering

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Engineering Division  
455 W Main, 7th Floor

Phone: 316-268-4501  
Fax: (316) 268-4114  
<http://www.wichita.gov>

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## Stop Signs: Will They Solve My Problem?



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## Do I Need A Stop Sign?

As more and more vehicles are on our streets, traffic volumes seem to continuously grow and speeds seem to increase on many streets.

These concerns are reflected in the increasing number of calls being received by the City of Wichita. Many of those calls are also asking for installation of stop signs to divert or slow traffic. Do stop signs really work or are they just another symbol that really does not deter traffic? Does a stop sign installation create larger traffic problems? Are they effective in slowing and diverting traffic?

Several studies of stop signs installed for this very purpose don't back up the commonly held beliefs.



A stop sign is one of the most valuable and effective traffic control devices, when used at the right place and under the right conditions. It can also create a dangerous situation and diminish the effectiveness of other signs when improperly used. Additionally, stop signs causes a substantial inconvenience to motorists.



## So why not install a stop sign every time a neighborhood requests one?

### Speeds aren't reduced by stop sign installation

Studies have shown that speeds can actually increase between stop signs, up to 3-5 mph faster. Some drivers are irritated by "speed control stop signs" and develop tendencies to make up for lost time by over-accelerating or traveling at higher speeds.

### Diversion of Traffic Is Not Often Achieved

Most of the traffic on the street is there by choice and installation of a stop sign will not cause the traffic to re-route itself. While stop signs may divert a small amount of traffic, the diverted traffic may simply choose a residential street as easy as choosing a more regional roadway.

### Not as Effective as Most People Believe

At unwarranted stop signs, where the motorists are not certain why the sign has been installed, the compliance is relatively poor—people run the stop signs.

### Noise, Air Quality, and Accident Problems

Residents adjacent to a stop sign may see lower speeds. However, there also tends to be more noise, an increased incidence of rear end collisions, and an air quality element associated with vehicle stops at intersections.

### Wastes Fuel and Causes Wear and Tear on Vehicles

Each time a vehicle is stopped, it takes significant fuel to get going again. Plus, each time a vehicle stops, there is more wear on the vehicles tires and even the pavement wears out more quickly due to stop signs!

Remember, the installation of a stop sign does not improve safety or provide a secure or safe haven for children to play. Children should be actively discouraged from playing in or directly adjacent to any street regardless of volume.

### When Are Stop Signs "Warranted?"

Stop signs are installed when meeting guidelines and warrants relating to traffic volume, visibility, and traffic flow. These criteria are included as part of a detailed study, which ultimately provide standardization across the City of Wichita.

#### Traffic Volume

Traffic volumes may suggest a need for a stop sign, with a lower volume street typically qualifying for a stop sign as it intersects a higher volume street.

#### Accidents

The frequency of accidents at an intersection may suggest a need for additional traffic control devices.

#### Through Streets

Priority is given to certain streets as part of a city-wide traffic plan. The focus is overall efficiency, which means local efficiency may be lessened.

#### Other Conditions

Stop signs can also be installed at local street intersections where there is a specific hazard, such as limited sight distance and where volume of traffic and hazard combine to make stop sign controls effective.

## Still Need a Stop Sign?



If, after reviewing this pamphlet, your neighborhood believes the City should consider the installation of a stop sign, please send a letter outlining your request to the address on the back of this brochure.